

#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, which were merely objected to, have been rewritten in independent form and are now clearly allowable. Claims 8, 9 and 13, which also were merely objected to, have not been rewritten in independent form, because base Claim 7 is allowable for reasons set forth hereinafter.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a plurality of spaced holding piece arms, extending radially outward from a corresponding portion of the periphery of a first end of the shank. These arms, represented, for example, by elements 13, are advantageous, because they can be readily inserted into a mounting hole of a silencer, for example, as described in the specification in the penultimate paragraph on page 10. No such arms are found in Van Boven et al. or Rebers et al., upon which Claim 1 was rejected. Accordingly, Claim 1 and dependent Claim 6 should be allowed.

Claim 7 and the claims dependent thereon clearly distinguish patentably from Rebers et al., upon which these claims were rejected. The text of the rejection does not even mention the sheet-shaped member or the auxiliary member referred to in Claim 7.

Referring more particularly to Claim 7, Rebers et al. do not teach a sheet-shaped member with a stud protruding from one side thereof, a flange extending outward from an end of a shank juxtaposed with a second side of the sheet-

shaped member, with at least one outwardly projecting holding piece arm juxtaposed with the first side of the sheet-shaped member, and an auxiliary member having a hole through which the stud projects and a wall juxtaposed with the opposite end of the shank. See, for example, but without limitation, Figs. 7, 8, 15, and 16 of Applicants' drawings.

Accordingly, Claim 7 and the claims dependent thereon should be allowed.

This application is now believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lmb

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